

**Notice of Opportunity to Object**  
**West Bend Vegetation Management Project**  
**Deschutes National Forest, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District**

This legal notice announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the West Bend Vegetation Management Project and also provides information on how to object to the proposed decision to implement Alternative 3. The project is located within Township 17S, Range 11E, Sections 32-34; Township 18S, Range 10E, Sections 8, 9, 12-15, 19-30, 35; Township 18S, Range 11E, Sections 3011, 14-23, 27-33; Township 19S, Range 10E, Section 1; Township 19S, Range 11E, Sections 5-7; Willamette Meridian.

John Allen, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor, has decided to implement Alternative 3 as described in the FEIS. The decision authorizes actions across about 21,817 acres of the 25,696-acre project area. Under Alternative 3, thinning would take place on about 14,522 acres and fuels treatments would cover nearly 19,000 acres in the form of mowing and/or prescribed underburning. The selected alternative would also include non-significant Forest Plan Amendments so that low-intensity prescribed fire can be applied within Scenic Views management areas on blocks greater than five acres and because the visual effects of these actions within Scenic Views management areas will likely last longer than two years. An amendment to thin within thermal cover in the Deer Habitat Management Area would also be part of the decision to implement Alternative 3.

The analysis has been completed and the project is now subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B (aka the objection process). The final EIS and Draft Record of Decision can be obtained by contacting Beth Peer, Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District, 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, OR 97701. Phone: (541) 383-4769 or viewed on the Forest Service NEPA website: [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=34238](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=34238).

During the objection period, only those individuals or organizations that submitted specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (such as scoping or the 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Objections must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d); incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b).

Objections may be mailed to: Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer, Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service, Attn. 1570 Appeals and Objections, PO Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208. Objections delivered by mail must be received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period. For emailed objections, please email to: [objections-pnw-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-pnw-regional-office@fs.fed.us). Please put OBJECTION and the project name in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of an actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement of the receipt of the objection; it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. If you choose to hand deliver your objections before September 5, 2013, deliver it to the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 333 SW First Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97204-3440. If you choose to hand deliver your objection

on or after September 5, 2013, deliver it to the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97204. Hand deliveries can occur between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Objections may also be faxed to Regional Forester, Attn: 1570 Objections at (503)808-2339 before September 5, 2013. Objections faxed on or after September 5, 2013 should be faxed to the Deschutes National Forest fax number at (541)383-5553. Objections must be postmarked or received by the Reviewing Office, Regional Forester, within 45 days from the date of publication of notice of the objection period in *The Bulletin*, Bend, OR. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with this requirement for objection issues.

An objection must include a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

For additional information: Beth Peer, Project Leader, phone (541) 383-4769, email [bpeer@fs.fed.us](mailto:bpeer@fs.fed.us).